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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/748,206	12/31/2003	Satoshi Inoue	040852.98	5363

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EXAMINER

BOOTH, RICHARD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2812

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/748,206

Applicant(s)

INOUE ET AL.

Examiner

Richard A. Booth

Art Unit

2812

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 55-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 55-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date (5).
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 55-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al., JP 08-262475.

Nakajima et al. shows the invention as claimed including a device comprising: a substrate 3; an adherent layer 5 formed over the substrate; a thin film device (7,8) being attached to the substrate with the adherent layer, and at least one insulation film (10,11), which is positioned over the thin film transistor device with respect to the adherent layer, and an intermediate layer 9, which is positioned between the thin film device and the adherent layer, wherein the one of the insulation film and the intermediate layer has an opening where no thin film device is formed; and an electrode 4 connected to the thin film device, the electrode being positioned over the adherent layer such that the electrode is substantially exposed at the opening (see drawings and translation).

With respect to claim 56, note that, as broadly interpreted, a contact hole is provided in the intermediate layer and the electrode is connected with the thin film device through the contact hole, since the transistor devices will be formed in multiples alongside each other on the substrate.

Furthermore, regarding claim 57, note that the electrode includes an external connection terminal that connects to an external circuit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 60 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima et al., JP 08-262475 in view of Sarma, U.S. Patent 5,110,748.

Nakajima et al. is applied as above but does not expressly disclose a light shielding layer being disposed over the thin film layer.

Sarma discloses that light shielding layers need to be disposed over the thin film layer in order to reduce the leakage current in a thin film transistor device (see col. 2-

lines 33-37). In view of this disclosure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Nakajima et al. so as to include a light shielding layer in order to reduce the leakage current of the device.

Claim 61 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima et al., JP 08-262475 in view of Aoki et al., U.S. Patent 4,654,117.

Nakajima et al. is applied as above but does not expressly disclose an opposing substrate; and a liquid crystal layer material sandwiched between the active matrix substrate and the opposing substrate.

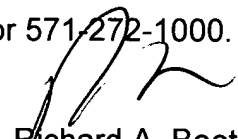
Aoki et al. discloses that a typical liquid crystal display includes an opposing substrate, and a liquid crystal layer material sandwiched between the active matrix substrate and the opposing substrate (see fig. 5 and col. 4-line 66 to col. 5-line 8). In view of this disclosure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Nakajima et al. so as to include the liquid crystal configuration of Aoki et al. because in such a way an operational liquid crystal display device can be produced.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard A. Booth whose telephone number is (571) 272-1668. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Lebentritt can be reached on (571) 272-1873. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Richard A. Booth
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2812

February 4, 2007